

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A processor may execute a test and skip instruction that includes or otherwise specifies at least two operands that are used in a comparison operation. Based on the results of the comparison, the instruction that follows the test and skip instruction is “skipped.” The test and skip instruction may specify that the operands used in the comparison include (1) the contents of two registers, (2) the contents of one register and the contents of a memory location, or (3) the contents of one register and a stack value. In the second mode (an operand being from memory), a register is specified in the test and skip instruction that contains a value from which a pointer may be calculated. The calculated pointer preferably points to the memory location. If a stack value is used in the execution of the test and skip instruction, the instruction may include a reference to a register that points to the top of the stack. Further, the stack pointer may be adjusted automatically if the stack is used to provide an operand for the instruction. Embodiments may include apparatus and methods.